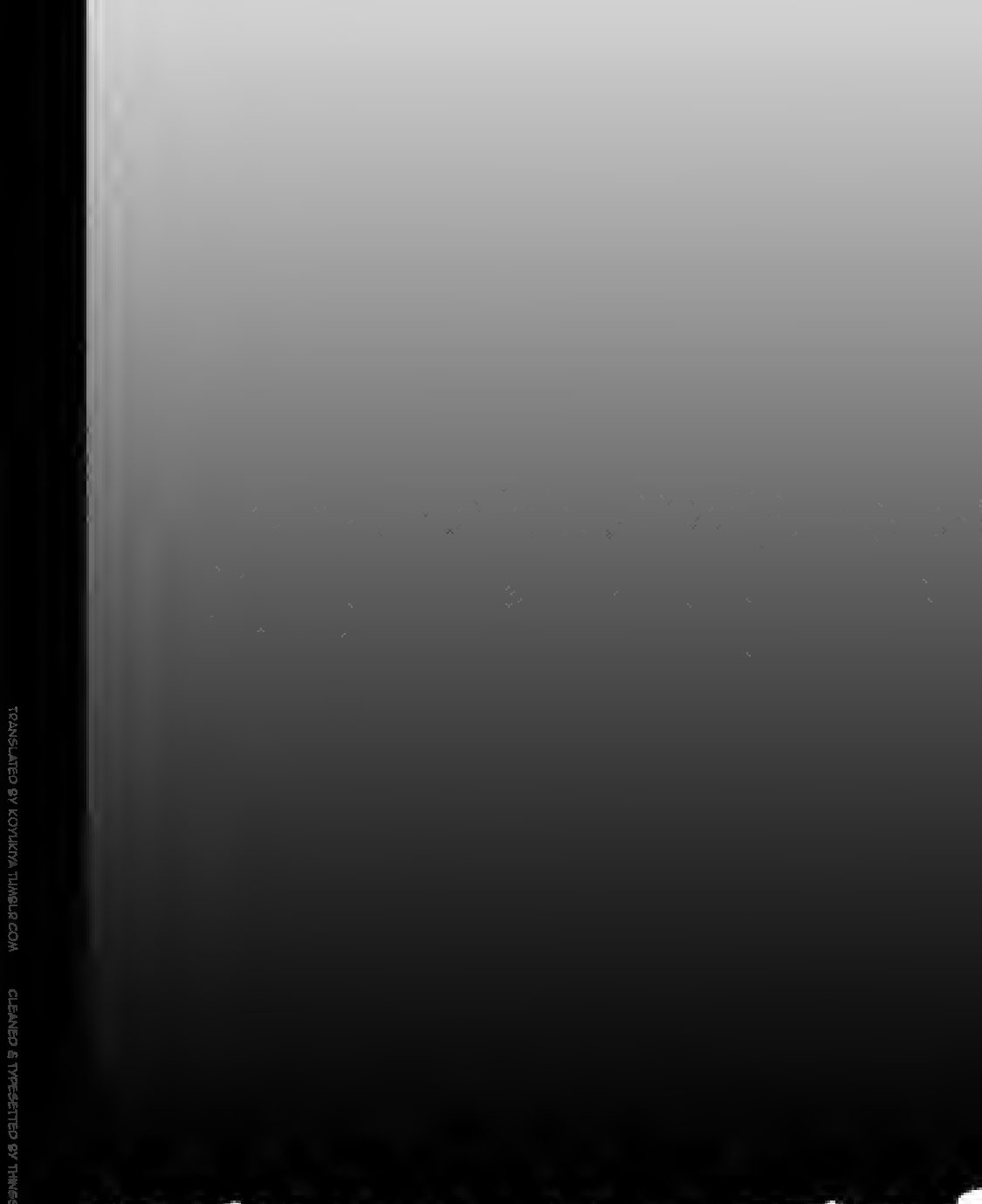

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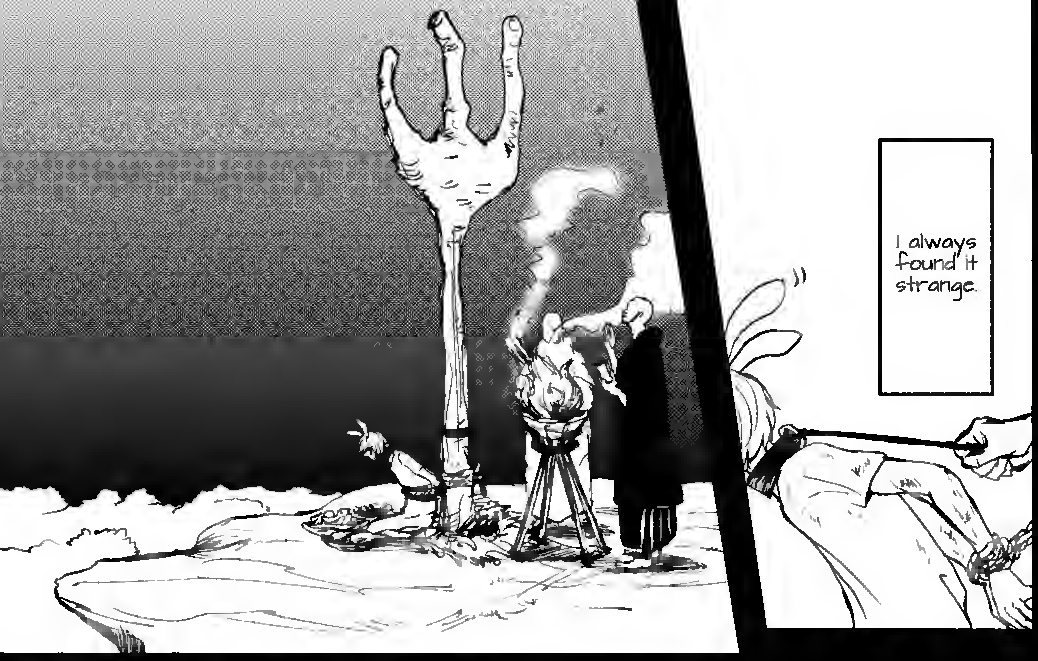
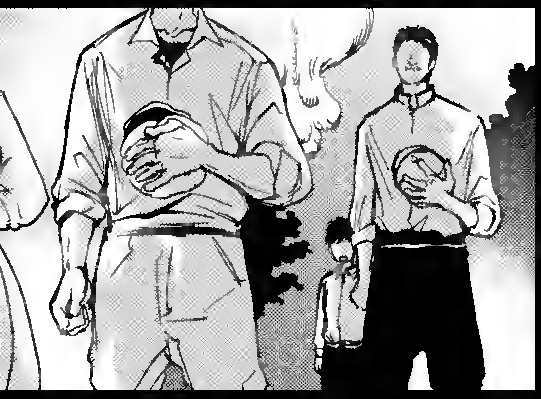
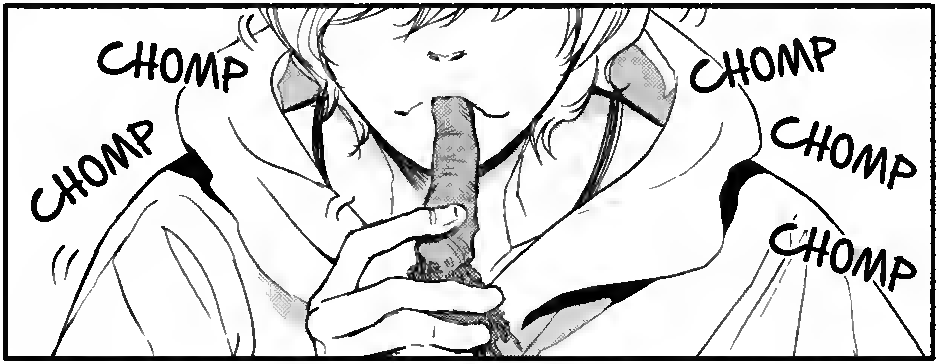

I always found it strange.



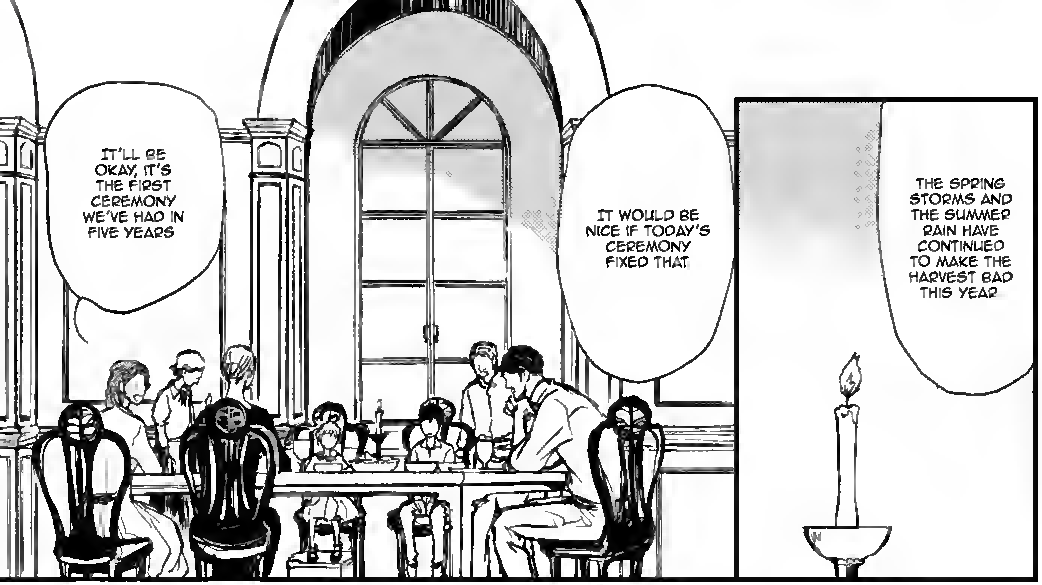
Aren't they people too?

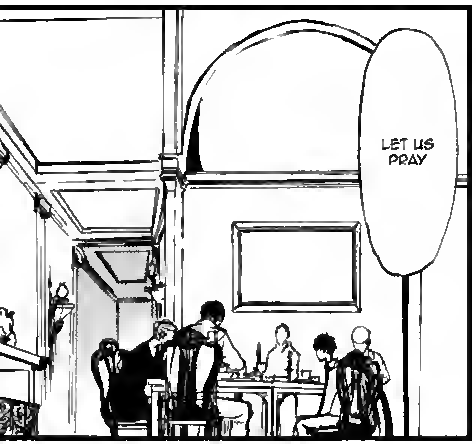
第3話（前編）

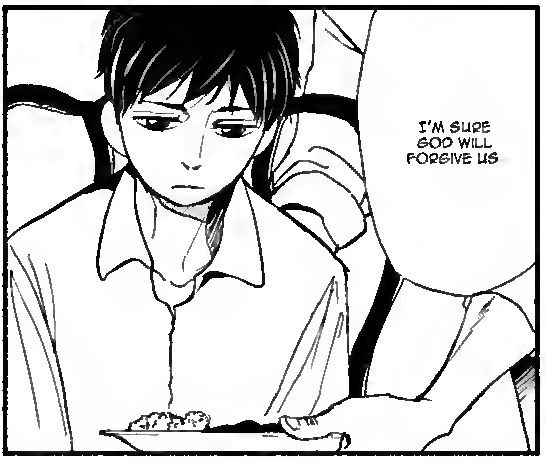
03-1

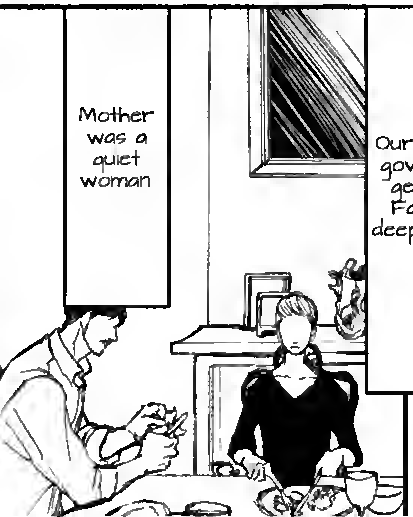


My hometown was old-fashioned.
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP

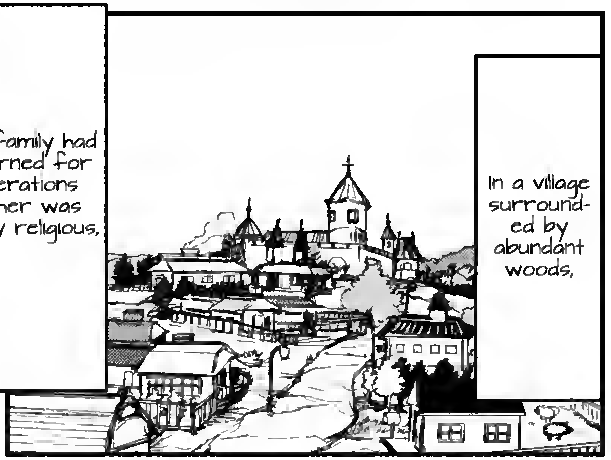

IT'LL BE OKAY, IT'S THE FIRST CEREMONY WE'VE HAD IN FIVE YEARS
IT WOULD BE NICE IF TODAY'S CEREMONY FIXED THAT
THE SPRING STORMS AND THE SUMMER RAIN HAVE CONTINUED TO MAKE THE HARVEST BAD THIS YEAR







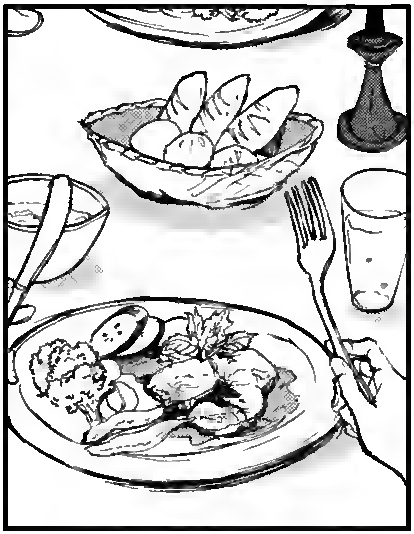
Our family had governed for generations Father was deeply religious,

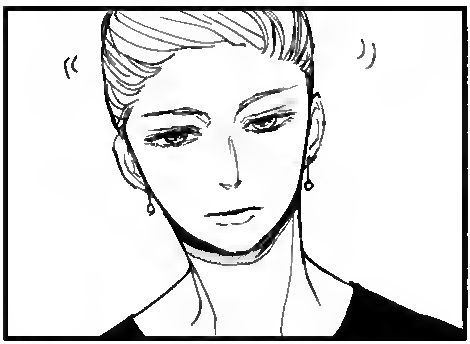


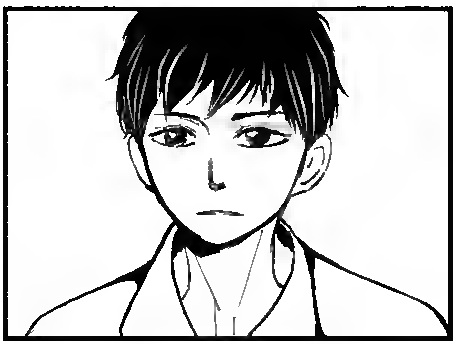
My own noisy sister,
STOP THAT, YAHWEH
ONII-CHAN, HAVE YOU SEEN THE SACRIFICE?
With my father's chatty younger sister,
HOW'S YOUR HUNTING GOING, OWEN? HAVE YOU GOTTEN ANY BETTER?
YAHWEH, STOP
EEH, BUT APOS SAID OFFERINGS THAT ARE ALIVE ARE CALLED SACRIFICES!
IT'S AN OFFER-ING
THIS ISN'T A SACRIFICE
And multiple servants,
We hunt the animals in the forest for every little thing...
While going on about feasts and rainmaking and long-evity and Gods of Calamity,
I always wondered why no one else asked the same

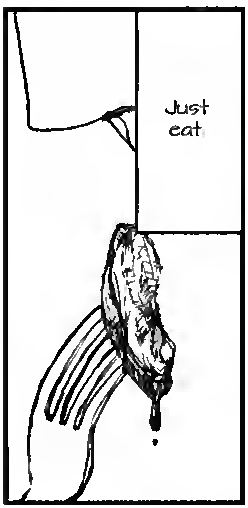
Hey.
Don't they have lives too?
Just so our species can live in glory
Don't they have families like us?

By hunting them and destroying that vitality
Is God truly happy about that?








Just eat.

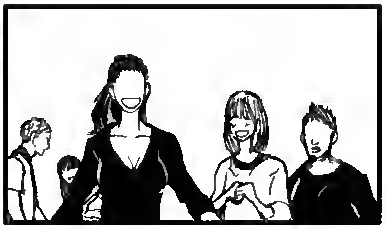
Don't ask.
Whenever our eyes meet, Mother always shakes her head slightly

For the sake of survival
FWOOSH

AND THE WINNER IS... SECOND YEAR STUDENT AT SOGUEDO UNI, AND DEFENDING CHAMPION - OWEN W. COBATORL!
SCORE
Soguedo Uni Owen W. Cobatorl (2nd year)
3 60
Oshushi Daisuke Takasuka Masuro Ion (3rd year)
2 1
WOOOW!
Amazing, Owen! No misses!!
You did it, Owen!

When I left the country at fourteen to study abroad

I found paradise



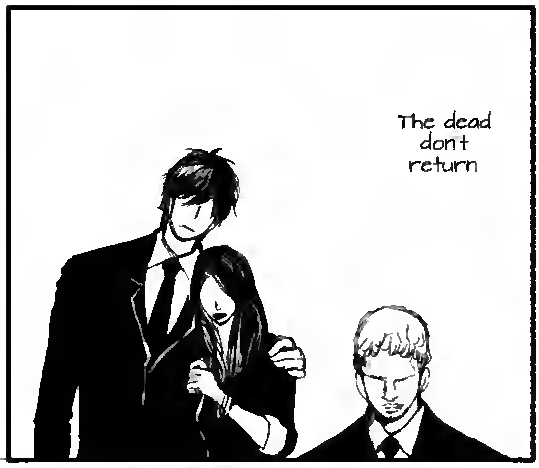
Each and every one of them walked their own path, refusing to become a single entity

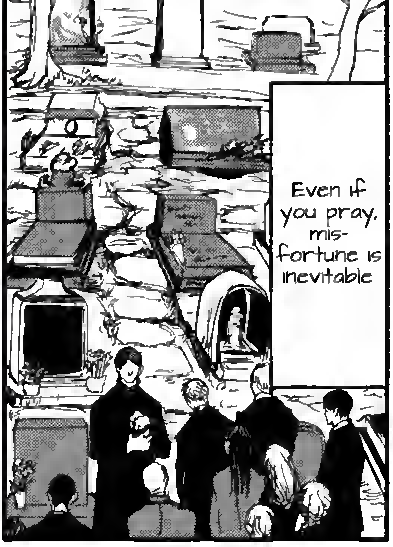
It was a diverse group of people with various beliefs, and distinct personalities

I could finally breathe easily

in fact, that individuality is the natural condition of all living creatures, a sign of their intelligence and of their perfection.

Though I may have been a bit too free
Guys who don't
Guys who eat meat
Men
Wom -en
Guys who jerk off
Guys who eat insects
Creatures born for the pur- pose of feeding humans


The dead don't return


Even if you pray, misfortune is inevitable

There is no God.

In life, actions have consequences.

Conse-
quences
OWEN, IT SEEMS LIKE I'M PREGNANT

WHOSE KID IT IS
SHE'S PROBABLY NOT SURE
WHY ARE YOU TELLING THE BOTH OF US?

DUNNO... TWO MONTHS AGO WE HAD EXAMS, SO I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING

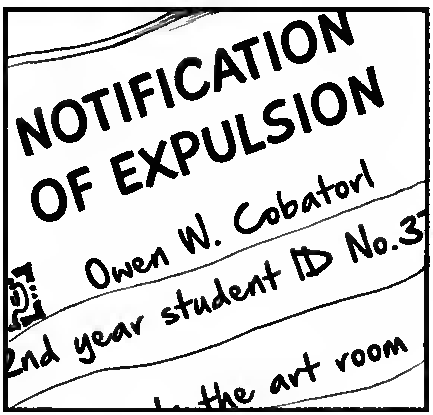
WHO WAS THE LAST PERSON SHE DID IT WITH? ME, OR YOU?
DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT

To know who the father was between me and Asmos.
She wanted two things.
IT'S USUALLY AN ORGY ANYWAY
And to decide whether to give birth or abort
Destruction of evidence
That way you won't know
THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST EAT IT AFTER IT'S BORN?

Shh!
HEY COPANA, AREN'T RABBITS JUST HUMANS WITH RABBIT EARS?
WHY DO WE CATCH THEM?
THAT'S THE SINFUL FORM OF THOSE BORN FROM COPULATION WITH A BEAST
?
WHAT'S A BEAST?
ALL LIVING CREATURES WHO ARE INFERIOR TO HUMANS ARE BEASTS LIKE HORSES, OR CATTLE
IF YOU OFFER THEM TO THE GODS TO MAKE GOD HAPPY, DOESN'T THAT MAKE THEM SUPERIOR TO HUMANS? WHY ARE THEY SINFUL?
EVEN IF YOU OFFER HUMANS, GOD WON'T BE HAPPY, RIGHT?
DOESN'T THAT MAKE THEM A HIGHER CLASS THAN HUMANS?
YOUNG MASTER, YOU ARE MISTAKEN

BECAUSE HUMANS ARE AN EXISTENCE
CHOSEN BY GOD.

clatter
clatter
clatter
clatter


NOTIFICATION OF EXPULSION
Owen W. Cobatori
2nd year student ID No.37
the art room

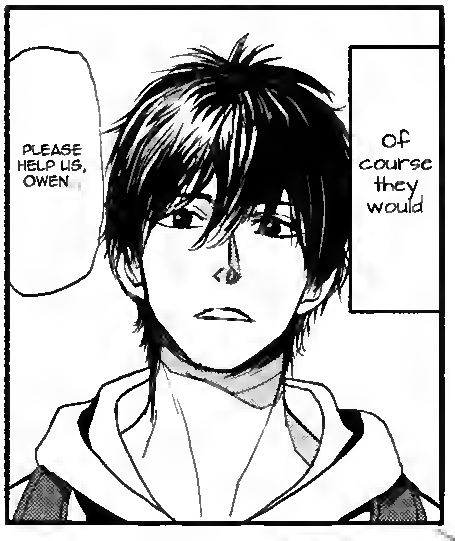
For now, I will return to my country
I haven't contacted my family, but...
This is the result of my choices
With this, the carefree life I had on a sports scholarship has come to an end
The last time I was in my hometown, I was fifteen.
Looking back now, I haven't recieved a single letter in the past three years
Since it's situated so deep in the moutains..
WALLACE COBATORI TERRITORY PATH

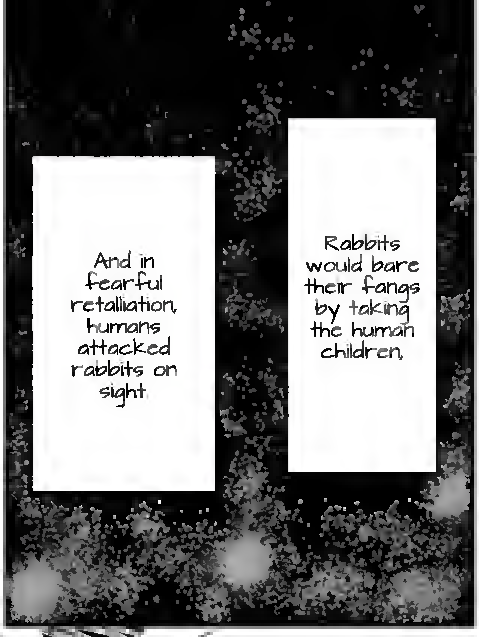
DO NOT TOUCH
DANGER!
HIGH VOLTAGE!!
The reason for that had never crossed my mind.
in the short time I had been gone, the country had changed a lot.

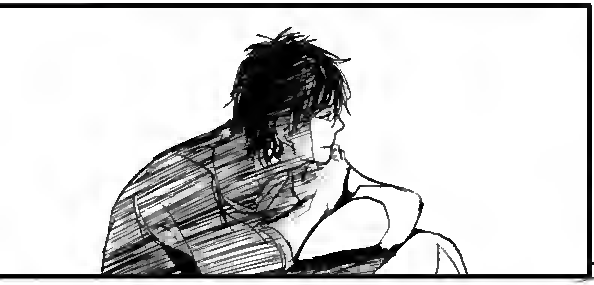
There were traps everywhere.
The men carried weapons at all times.
Children were not allowed outside without supervision.
29
And women and children were forbidden to enter the forest
OWEN!
YOU'RE BACK
SOME STUFF HAPPENED, THOUGHT I'D DROP BY
?
.....
BROTHER, IT MUST BE A SIGN FROM GOD THAT OWEN HAS RETURNED

WHAT HAPPENED?
What Father spoke of was...
TWO YEARS AGO, THE VILLAGE WAS AFFLICTED WITH PLAGUE.
YOUR MOTHER WAS ONE OF ITS VICTIMS.
WE DISCOVERED AFTERWARDS THAT IT HAD ORIGINATED FROM THE CONSUMPTION OF AN INVASIVE SPECIES OF SHELLFISH
THAT IS... WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT FACT AT THE TIME...
SO WE HELD CEREMONIES AND PRAYED EVERYDAY TO APPEASE THE GODS.
BEFORE LONG, SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE MADE THE CLAIM THAT...
BY EATING THE RABBITS WHICH WERE USED AS OFFERINGS, THE DISEASE WOULD BE CURED.
A mortal sin.

AND WITH THAT, THE RABBITS WERE RUTHLESSLY HUNTED
NO MATTER HOW STRONGLY YOU CLAIM THAT IT IS A DIVINE RIGHT, NOTHING GOOD CAN COME FROM OVER-HUNTING
I TRIED TO HELP BY PROHIBITING IT THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE
BUT THE HUNTING DID NOT STOP IN THE END, THE RABBITS WERE EVEN BEING SOLD TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES
Eventually, they could no longer endure the violence that humans had inflicted upon them...
SOON, A VILLAGER WENT MISSING
THEN ANOTHER, AND ANOTHER AND THEN CHILDREN DISAPPEARED
ONE DAY, HUMAN REMAINS SHOWED UP AT THE VILLAGE ENTRANCE
And began to take revenge

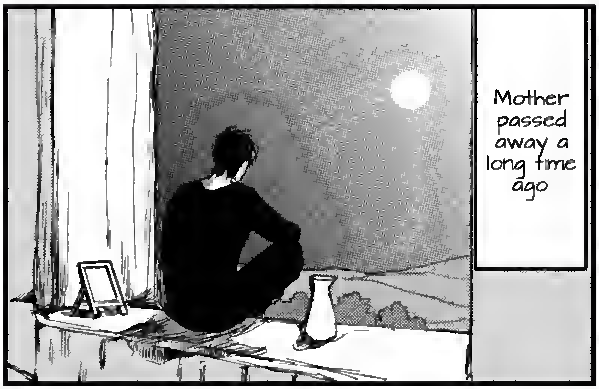


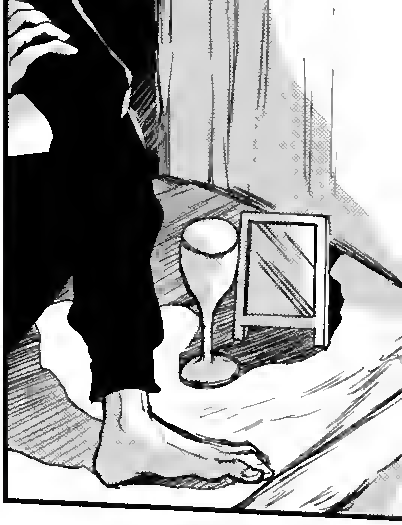

Rabbits would bare their fangs by taking the human children.
And in fearful retaliation, humans attacked rabbits on sight.

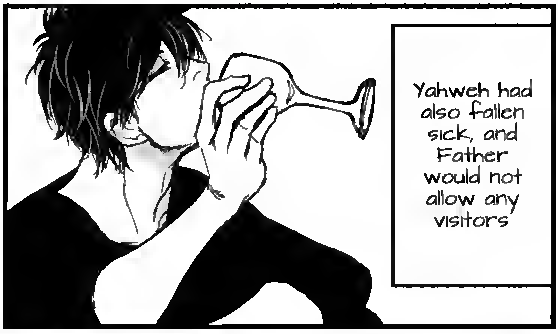


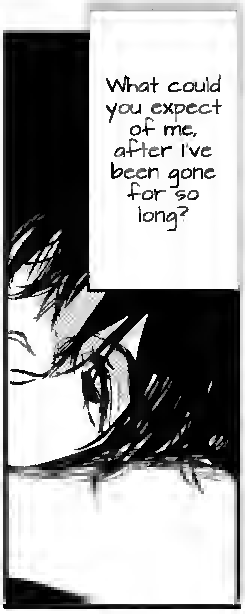
HELP US CONTROL THIS SITUATION!

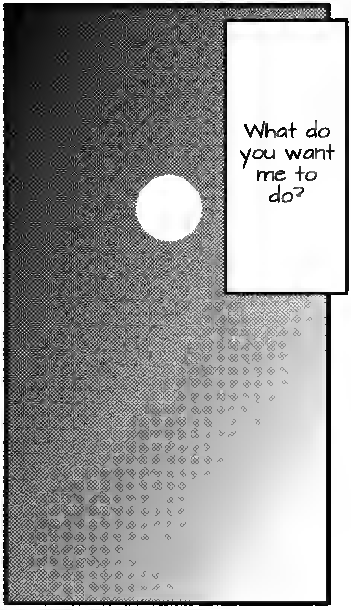
This is the result of their choices

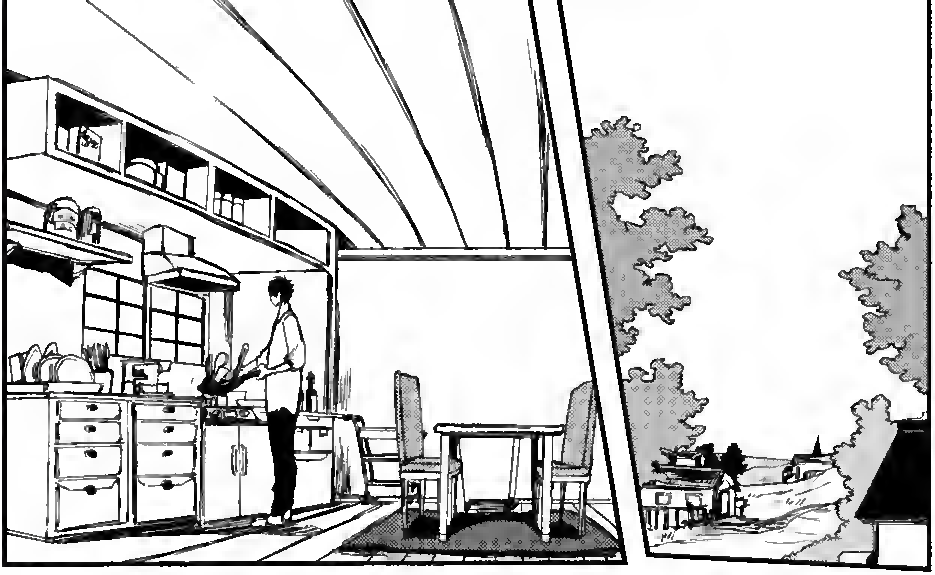

Mother passed away a long time ago

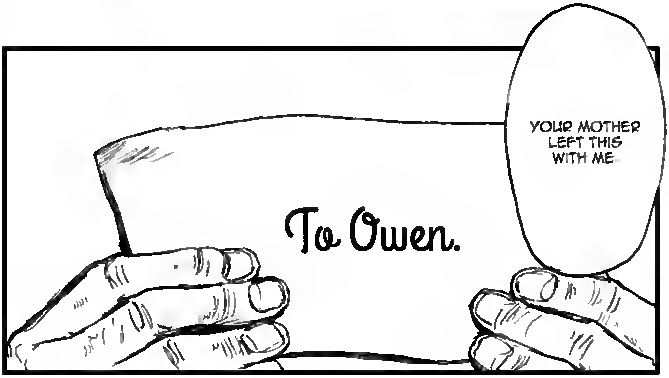


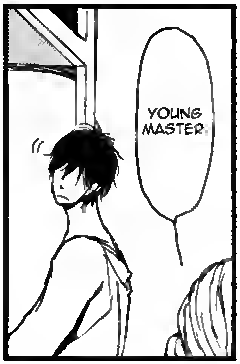

Yahweh had also fallen sick, and Father would not allow any visitors


What could you expect of me, after I've been gone for so long?

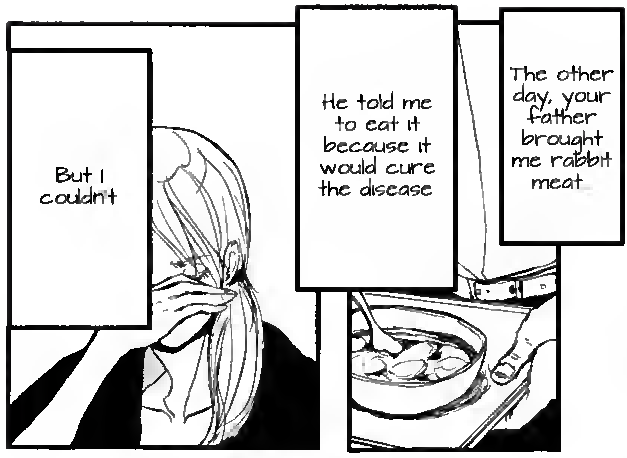

What do you want me to do?




To Owen.
YOUR MOTHER LEFT THIS WITH ME.


YOUNG MASTER.

I, too, have fallen ill because of it.
Right now, an unknown disease is ravaging the village.



I can tell that I'm becoming weaker everyday I most likely will not last long

Fortunately, I took the shape of a human, and so they left me in the care of some relatives, and I was able to marry your father

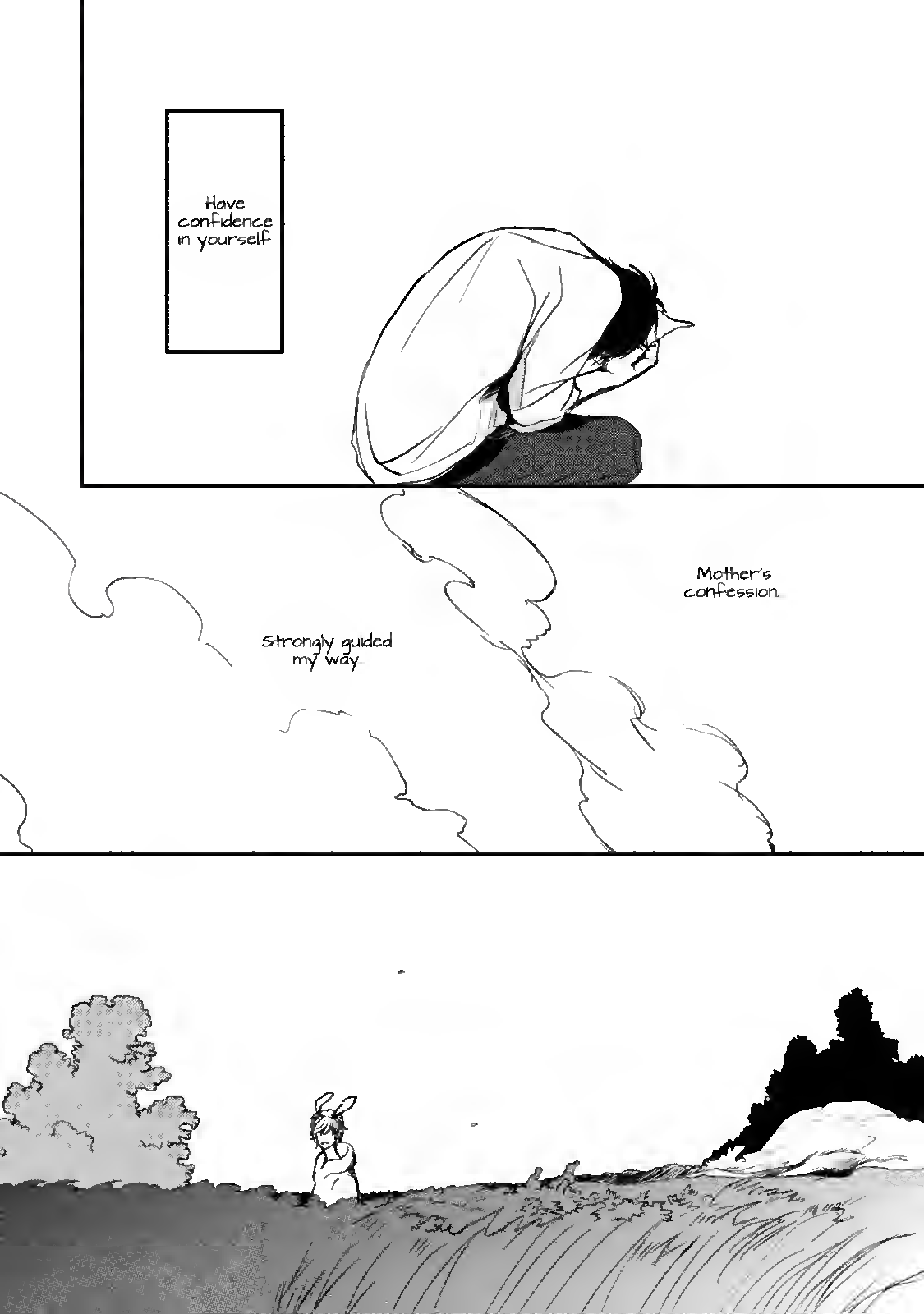
I was born to a rabbit father and a human mother

My siblings are a part of the rabbit clan.

I just could not bring myself to eat the meat of my family

However, my siblings live in that world.

Owen,
But you rejected it until the very end
To live. So I told you many times to keep eating
I wanted you...
You did the right thing.
There is nothing wrong with the way you think.


Have confidence in yourself
Mother's confession
Strongly guided my way